

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION VIII, MONTANA OFFICE FEDERAL BUILDING, 301 S. PARK, DRAWER 10096 HELENA, MONTANA 59626-0096

Ref: 8MO

May 14, 1990

Site East Helena File # 2.06 Confidential: Yes _ Admin. Record: Yes _ Key Words/Comments: EPA's response to ASARCO's good fait offer for Process Ronds RD RA.

Cynthia S. Leap, Esquire Holland & Hart Suite 2900 555 Seventeenth Street P.O. Box 8749 Denver, Colorado 80201

> RE: East Helena Site - Process Ponds Operable Unit RD/RA Negotiations

Dear Ms. Leap:

EPA Region VIII has received and reviewed the May 1, 1990 offer submitted by you to EPA on behalf of Asarco. EPA has determined that this offer constitutes a "good faith offer" as contemplated by section 122(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9622(e), and provides a sufficient basis to continue negotiations. Consequently, the negotiation moratorium has now been extended for an additional period of sixty days as provided in Section 122(e). The negotiation moratorium will now expire on July 1, 1990.

EPA Office of Regional Counsel and Program staff are currently preparing an in-depth analysis of the documents which you submitted. Upon completion of this analysis, EPA will schedule a meeting with you to discuss the outstanding issues which pose a barrier to settlement.

If you have any questions pertaining to this matter, please direct them to Suzanne J. Bohan, Office of Regional Council, EPA Region VIII, Denver, Colorado 80202, at (303) 293-1458.

Sincerely,

John F. Wardell, Director

Montana Office